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WE SPIED . . .

We spied several books of considerable interest during the last quarter, one of which is *The Cat and the Mice*, by Leonard Mosley.¹ It tells the short and readable story of John Eppler, a German spy who worked for Marshal Rommel in Cairo until British security put an end to his activities. Born of German parents, but calling himself Hussein Gâafer after his Egyptian stepfather, Eppler was well known in Cairo cabaret circles and a natural for recruitment into the Abwehr. After training in Germany he and his radio operator, a German from East Africa named Peter Monkaster, were led in May 1942 across 2,000 miles of the Sahara back to Cairo, where he picked up the threads of his former gay life.

A belly-dancer and German agent named Hekmath Fathmy worked with Eppler and Monkaster, bringing British officers to their adjacent houseboats and giving parties where information could be extracted with the traditional help of wine and women. There Eppler met Lieutenant Anwar El Sadat, a young associate of the anti-British Captain Gamal Abdal Nasser. (El Sadat's book, *Revolt on the Nile*,² tells of these contacts with Eppler and Monkaster and records his opinion that the two agents were spending their German funds more on good living than on securing information. El Sadat attributes his own arrest a few days after Eppler's to the fact that he had been in the German's company.)

As the story is told in *The Cat and the Mice*, Eppler, with the help of the belly-dancer and some knock-out drops, found in an officer's dispatch case the answers to three key questions Rommel had asked about British plans for defending the Delta. But meantime the radio men who were to receive his messages in the desert had been captured by the British, and his alternate circuit would not be available for 24 hours. In those 24 hours British Intelligence, which had been investigating the source of forged English money ineptly introduced into British-held Egypt by the Abwehr, was able to trace it to Eppler and arrest him, bringing the espionage operation to a photo-finish end.

¹ London: Arthur Barker Ltd., 1958. 160 p. 13s.6d.

² London: Allan Wingate, 1957. 131 p.

We Spied

Mosley's version of this operation is evidently simplified and embellished for popular consumption, but it has a factual basis and makes good reading.

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The prolific English writer, Ronald Seth, continues to pour out books of general intelligence interest. His latest work, entitled *For My Name's Sake*,³ is a brief account of the struggle of the Roman Catholic Church against the Nazis in occupied Western Europe and against Communist persecution in Eastern Europe. The author has omitted the Nazi persecution of the Church of Germany as too complex a subject to cover in this volume. Mr. Seth's quick books reflect comparatively little original thought or research and often contain some inaccuracies, but this, like many of them, is useful as a broad outline of the resistance activity he describes. The growing literature of Clerical Resistance, which already overflows a three-foot bookshelf, is of considerable importance to the intelligence officer in the resistance field.

For light but informative reading, attention is called to two anthologies of escape tales recently published in England. One is a compilation of *Great Escape Stories*, edited by Eric Williams,⁴ himself an escaper with several books on the subject to his credit. His anthology, largely devoted to World War II escapes, includes one during the Korean War and one from behind the Iron Curtain. *Great True Escape Stories*, edited by Fred Urquhart,⁵ also deals largely with World War II, but leads off with Winston Churchill's 1899 escape from the Boers. Readers who are content with anthologies as a substitute for the originals will find that these two editors have picked from among the best.

³London: Geoffrey Bles, 1958. 246 p. 18s.

⁴London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1958. 256 p. 12s6d.

⁵London: Arco, 1958. 240 p. 16s.